

EXTENDING FOR 2 YEARS THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WEATHER CONTROL

JUNE 25, 1956.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. ROGERS of Texas, from the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2913]

The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce to whom was referred the bill (S. 2913) to extend for 2 years the Advisory Committee on Weather Control, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of this legislation is to continue for 2 years (to June 30, 1958) the act to create a committee to study and evaluate public and private experiments in weather modification (67 Stat. 559, 561), approved August 13, 1953.

BACKGROUND OF THE LEGISLATION

The Advisory Committee on Weather Control was established to study and evaluate various experiments indicating that man could modify clouds and create precipitation by various means and under certain conditions.

The entire subject of rainmaking was highly controversial and speculative but the potential economic advantages of even slight ability to control or modify precipitation were considered sufficient to justify scientific study.

The Committee is composed of 11 members, 5 of outstanding ability in the fields of science, agriculture, and business appointed from private life by the President, and 6 members, with alternates, from interested Government agencies. The staff of the Committee consists of 15 persons, mostly meteorologists and statisticians. The appropriation for fiscal years 1955 and 1956 were \$120,000 and \$275,000, respec-

THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE,
Washington, D. C., April 17, 1956.

Hon. J. PERCY PRIEST,

*Chairman, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter is in reply to your request of April 11, 1956, for the views of this Department with respect to H. R. 10336, a bill to extend for 2 years the Advisory Committee on Weather Control.

The Department of Commerce recognizes the problem which the Advisory Committee on Weather Control has been attempting to evaluate since its establishment in 1953 as one of great importance and, at the same time, an exceedingly complex field. In stating our position on this bill, we believe it would be worth while to recall briefly that this temporary agency was established at a time when there were widely divergent views and highly controversial aspects to the subject of weather modification. This is not to imply that the uncertainties are now resolved. However, the several major test programs completed after the enactment of Public Law 256, 83d Congress, by the Department of Defense, Weather Bureau, several cooperating universities, and other interested agencies, have contributed a large amount of useful information. These extensive experiments, plus the evaluation efforts to date by the staff of the Advisory Committee on Weather Control, now permit a much better assessment of the more immediate possibilities and probable limitations. This is especially true in that these evaluations have contributed substantially toward narrowing the margin of uncertainty and have furnished valuable guidelines for future research. As a result of our close association with and interest in this field, we tend toward the view that it is likely that the evaluations already made or nearly completed have reached a point of diminishing returns, and that future important progress will be contingent upon further research, especially basic research, which existing Government agencies are well qualified and authorized to conduct.

The foregoing comments are intended mainly to help place the scientific status of the subject of weather modification in proper perspective, and as such may be of interest to your committee. Considered by themselves, these comments would appear to argue in favor of terminating the functions of this temporary agency. At the same time we are cognizant of the fact that H. R. 10336 is in accordance with the recommendations agreed to by a majority of the present members of the Advisory Committee on Weather Control. Considerable weight has been given by the members to the difficulties of arriving at conclusions in the final sense, and the fact that the evaluation work of the Committee was foreshortened due to circumstances beyond its control. In view of the recommendation of the Committee as a whole, the Department of Commerce will offer no objection to the enactment of this legislation.

We have been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that it would interpose no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

SINCLAIR WEEKS,
Secretary of Commerce.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION,
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR,
Washington, D. C., May 25, 1956.

Hon. J. PERCY PRIEST,
*Chairman, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR MR. PRIEST: This is in reply to your request of April 11, 1956, requesting our comments on H. R. 10336, a bill to extend for 2 years the Advisory Committee on Weather Control.

From my observations as a member of this Committee, I believe the Committee has made a good start on its mission but the nature of some major problems before the Committee is such as to require an additional period before definitive judgments can be reached. Accordingly, I believe that its life should be extended to June 30, 1958, as proposed in this bill, and therefore recommend that H. R. 10336 be enacted.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

ALAN T. WATERMAN, *Director.*

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D. C., May 2, 1956.

Hon. J. PERCY PRIEST,
*Chairman, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,
House of Representatives.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PRIEST: This is in reply to your request of April 11, 1956, for a report on H. R. 10336, a bill to extend for 2 years the Advisory Committee on Weather Control.

This Department favors the enactment of H. R. 10336, in order that the Committee may have sufficient time to complete its activities and prepare a report to the President for submission to the Congress.

The bill proposes that section 10 (a) of the act entitled "To create a committee to study and evaluate public and private experiments in weather modifications," approved August 13, 1953, be amended by striking out "June 30, 1956" and inserting in lieu thereof "June 30, 1958."

The Bureau of the Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

TRUE D. MORSE,
Acting Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D. C., April 30, 1956.

Hon. J. PERCY PRIEST,
*Chairman, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,
House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Reference is made to your request to the Secretary of Defense for the views of the Department of Defense with respect to H. R. 10336, 84th Congress, a bill to extend for 2 years

the Advisory Committee on Weather Control. The Secretary of Defense has delegated to the Department of the Army the responsibility for expressing the views of the Department of Defense thereon.

The Department of the Army on behalf of the Department of Defense favors the above-mentioned bill.

The purpose of H. R. 10336 is to amend section 10 (a) of the act entitled "An act to create a committee to study and evaluate public and private experiments in weather modification," approved August 13, 1953 (67 Stat. 559, 561), is amended by striking out "June 30, 1956" and inserting in lieu thereof "June 30, 1958." This action will extend for 2 years the Advisory Committee on Weather Control.

The Department of the Army on behalf of the Department of Defense recommends that the proposed amendment, which was designed to extend the existence of the Advisory Committee on Weather Control, be enacted by the Congress.

The enactment of the proposed bill will cause no apparent increase in the budgetary requirements for the Department of Defense.

This report has been coordinated within the Department of Defense in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

The Bureau of the Budget advised with respect to an identical report on a companion bill, S. 2913, 84th Congress, that there was no objection to the submission of that report to the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

WILBER M. BRUCKER,
Secretary of the Army.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, D. C., May 22, 1956.

Hon. J. PERCY PRIEST,
*Chairman, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in reply to your letter of April 11, 1956, requesting the views of this office with respect to H. R. 10336, a bill To extend for 2 years the Advisory Committee on Weather Control.

An extension of the expiration date of the Advisory Committee on Weather Control should permit the Committee to make further progress in its studies and result in a more useful report to the Congress on weather modification. The Bureau of the Budget, therefore, favors enactment of H. R. 10336.

Sincerely yours,

PERCY RAPPAPORT,
Assistant Director.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with clause 3 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as passed by the Senate, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be

omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

PUBLIC LAW 256, 83D CONGRESS

AN ACT To create a committee to study and evaluate public and private experiments in weather modification

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SEC. 10. (a). The Committee shall from time to time submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the President for submission to the Congress. At the earliest possible moment, the Committee shall submit a report to the President for submission to the Congress on the advisability of the Federal Government regulating, by means of licenses or otherwise, those who attempt to engage in activities designed to modify or control the weather. The Committee shall submit a final report to the President for submission to the Congress not later than **[June 30, 1956]** *June 30, 1958.*

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